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Shopping in Healdsburg has the feel and appeal of a chic European resort. However, if time (or your partner) only allows for one shopping excursion, be sure to see the Sandra Jordan Collection. When world travelers, Tom Jordan and his Peruvian wife, Sandra, were furnishing their exquisite chateau in Alexander Valley, their interest in wine-related antiques became a passion. Now Sandra has turned her love of all things beautiful into a business. Each item in her collection is an artful combination of Old World technique and modern utility and is handcrafted by master artisans.

The Sandra Jordan Collection includes silver, reproduction antique furniture, fine fabrics, embroidery and most recently, horn. She is a perfectionist and knows quality; her silver is 950 and the embroidery is a double relief technique from the 1600s. Sandra's designs in toile can be seen at Les Mars Hotel.

The Sandra Jordan luxury that I coveted most, were her items in baby alpaca. The first shearing of the animal is the softest and shiniest of all and it is the only grade that Sandra uses for her custom, double-sided blankets, which are the ultimate in extravagant comfort. I also fell in love with her ruanas, which are wraps that are lightweight and perfect for cool evenings, as well as her car coats in the most delicious colors and lined in exquisite toile.

Northwest Sonoma County is the most picturesque of all of the grape growing regions in California and Healdsburg embodies the region's laid back approach to the good life. It has been described as having the sensation of time passing unobserved, of permanence. Time spent here will not be merely a vacation, but an experience that you will want to revisit again and again. Cheers. 